

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: November 14, 2016

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Consolmagno, Colella, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, Moury and O'Brien

Absent: Council Member Paul Dixon; Mayor Jack Allen

Also Present: William J. Spagnol, Manager; Solicitor Robert L. McTiernan; Chief Timothy O'Connor; Shawn Arbaugh, Community Services Director; Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer; Joseph Villella, Finance Director; Ashley Moore, Municipal Planner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, November 14, 2016 to discuss personnel issues and legal matters.

Mr. Moury acknowledged our new Councilmember in Ward 1, Mr. Joseph Consolmagno, who was appointed on October 10, 2016.

Mr. Consolmagno said that he has been a resident of Bethel Park for over 30 years. He and his wife, Alexis, have two children, Joseph and Marissa. He said he is here to serve the residents of Ward 1.

Reports of Officials

4. Library Director's Report

There was no Library Director's Report

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief O'Connor, on behalf of the Police Department, wished everyone a very safe Thanksgiving holiday.

The next Crime Watch meeting will take place on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The November meeting had a good turn out with Canine Office Jeez in attendance and hope for a good turnout in December.

Chief said that everyone can follow the Department on Facebook. He was happy to announce that the Police were successful in reuniting missing dogs with their owners. He said they post breaking news as it is happening on their Facebook page.

Chief then asked everyone to remember the families of the fallen and injured officers from Canonsburg and keep them in your thoughts and prayers. He also requested that we all wish for every police officer across America to return home safely after their shifts.

You can follow the Police Department news on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Assistant Chief Bob Brown said that the fire department has a current fundraising program going on in conjunction with David and Dana Origami Owl. You can learn more about the fundraiser by accessing their link on the Fire Company's website. If you use the promo code 320778, the fire company will receive 20% of all sales.

Assistant Chief Brown gave recreational fire safety tips for all residents to follow. If you are having a recreational fire, you should extinguish the fire completely and if you put it in any container, that container should be metal. Do not take the container inside, but leave it outside away from any structure.

He also reminded everyone that since the holidays are approaching, residents should pay particular attention to outdoor holiday lights and extension cords. All lights and extension cords used outdoors should be rated for outdoor use. You must match amperage with your cords. Do not overload the cords, inspect all lights and dispose of those that show wear and fraying. Keep all lights and extension cords away from snow and standing water, and shut off all lights when you leave the house for extended periods of time as well as at bedtime. He said that there is an article in the current edition of the Chronicles with tips on holiday light safety.

He then gave the fire report for the month of October. Additionally, he mentioned that the fire company has answered 364 calls from January 1 through the end of October.

7. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report.

In Mayor Allen's absence, Mr. Moury announced that the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at the Community Center on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 beginning at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend. He said that a "special guest" is expected to arrive.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

9. Public Hearing – Bethel Park Properties, Rezoning, Library Road, Application No. 2016-0308, September 26, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of September 26, 2016, Bethel Park Properties, Rezoning, Library Road, Application No, 2016-0308. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

10. Public Hearing – 2017 Municipal Budget, October 24, 2016

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of October 24, 2016 – 2017 Municipal Budget. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

11. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #111416 in the amount of \$1,634,657.81. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

12. Residents' Comments (non-agenda items only)

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

13. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

14. General Policy and Finance

Ordinance – Year 2017 Budget

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Year 2017 Municipal Budget. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

Mr. Moury announced that there is no tax increase to fund the 2017 Budget. One major project that will take place is the construction of a new Public Works facility. The Bond issue has been done and the payments have been covered. The millage rate will remain the same.

15. Ordinance – Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2017

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the ordinance setting the 2017 Tax Rate for general purposes, the sum of two and nineteen hundredths (2.19) mills on each dollar (\$1.00) of assessed valuation for municipal purposes and thirty-four hundredths (.34) mills on each dollar (\$1.00) of assessed valuation for the provisions of funding to Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company and costs associated with the same. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

Mr. Harrison said:

“I made the overt decision to not speak to the item that I speak to at every meeting and that is the fire company ballot question. I was told that particularly by Mr. O’Brien who said it’s over, it’s gone, it’s done with, keep quiet. So I decided not to speak to it at the October meeting. And Mr. Moury couldn’t let it go. He went through the same litany that they go through all the time that our Super Lawyer McTiernan said it was okay, the election bureau board said it was okay. But I refuse to let the public be misled on this because the Home Rule Charter, anybody that wants to read the Home Rule Charter knows that an Ordinance is not effective for at least thirty days after it is passed and Mr. McTiernan hand-carried a letter to the election bureau transmitting the ordinance three days after it was passed, 27 days before it becomes effective. And I talked to the elections director, and they had every reason to believe that when our lawyer gives them an ordinance that they had no reason not to take it. And in fact it was not. I just think that the public ought to understand that this Council, and the reason, the reason that McTiernan took the ordinance down three days after because if he did not deliver the ordinance until the time it become effective, then according to the election bureau rules, the question would not have gone on the ballot. The other thing, a councilman at the dais here is also a lawyer, and he implicitly agreed that an ineffective ordinance was delivered because he said, well, that’s okay because the day the vote was taken that at the polling place it had long since become effective. And I just feel that we shouldn’t have to believe that the Municipality did anything except violate the Home Rule Charter and I don’t anything to do about it except remind the people of that and hopefully they won’t be so brazen as to do it again in the future. Thank you.”

Mr. Moury said:

“My only comment is none of what he says is true.”

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

16. Planning and Zoning Items

No Items

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

17. Citizens' Comments – Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

18. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

Appointment – Position of Permanent Police Officer

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve that the permanent employment of Justin Beer be ratified as per the recommendation of Chief Timothy O'Connor. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

Mr. Colella spoke about the Bethel Park Adopt-a-Family program that had been discontinued a couple of years ago. He said that he and his wife, Pamela, feel very passionate about the need for this program to be resurrected for families in need during the holiday season. He said that this is not being sponsored by the Municipality or Municipal Council, but by himself and his wife. The Adopt-a-Family program is designed to locate families in need as well as sponsors who are willing to donate in order to provide South Hill's families with gifts for Christmas. It is an anonymous program. Anyone who is willing to help sponsor a family or knows of a family in need in the South Hills area should contact Pamela Colella at 412-360-9658. Mr. and Mrs. Colella also set up an official email address adoptafamilysouthhills@outlook.com

Mr. O'Brien told a story that happen that same day. He was returning from downtown Pittsburgh on the Port Authority to the T Station at South Hills Village. There was a young lady and baby with a stroller on the T and she seemed very bewildered and stressed. Mr. O'Brien asked her if she was okay and she answered that she had to take her young baby to the doctor and was not sure where to go when she got off the T. Mr. O'Brien, along with another rider that he knew, Mrs. Gmitter, asked if they could assist her in any way and they did. She did not have the correct change to pay the fare so they provided her with the money. They helped her get off the T with the baby and the stroller and asked if they could drive her to the doctor as she was using her GPS to help locate the doctor's office. Having no baby car seat in his car, Mrs. Gmitter was unable to drive her to her location. At that point, she placed the baby in the stroller, covered the baby and went on her way to Village Drive to get to Drake Road.

Both Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Gmitter became very concerned for their safety so he phoned Chief O'Connor's office and spoke with Janet. He informed Janet of his concerns. Janet in turn, contacted Chief O'Connor who was on patrol at the time. Chief O'Connor was able to locate the young lady and baby, got them to the doctor's office and then made sure they were returned to the T Station to make their way home. Mr. O'Brien wanted to thank Chief O'Connor for his assistance with this situation.

Mr. O'Brien also mention that the Veterans' Plaza is decorated in Marine Corp red flags. Anyone who can should stop by to see it.

Mr. O'Brien asked to speak about the American Legion since it was Veterans' Day. Social groups such as the Legion and the VFW have run into difficult times. Our Mayor Jack Allen is the Commander of the American Legion and he works very hard. He said when people see the building, they think of it as a bar in the basement but it is in fact so much more. They help veterans and supply direction when they are lost. They are the home to the Marine Corp. They have the fish fry. They work to promote Americanism and they hand out awards in the schools for essays. They have Poppy Day to raise money and promote awareness. They have summer picnics. They work with the middle school with recognition at the end of the school year. They have an essay award of \$500 for High School Seniors. They put together the Honor Guard to fund the last farewell to our veterans. They hold pig roasts and the auxiliary volunteer all over including the Memorial Day luncheon. The Legion provides the luncheon on Memorial Day and they run the parade. They have their own motorcycle club. The Military Banner program is also run through the Legion. They offer many things to a lot of people such as karaoke, bingo, and Family Feud and a place to watch Steelers games. They offer a place for veterans to go, they sponsor vacations trips for husbands, wives or singles. They help so many individual veterans that have lost their way with donations and generosity. Mr. O'Brien encourages veterans to join the American Legion and encourages people not to ride by the Legion on Bethel Church Road and think that it's just a barn with a bar in the basement. And if you see the Mayor's car there, please know that he is doing good work for the community and our veterans.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

19. Citizens' Comments – Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

20. Public Works and Maintenance Items

Resolution – PA Small Water and Sewer Grant

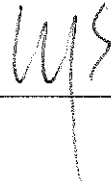
Motion by Mrs. Gibbons and seconded by Mr. Hannan to adopt a resolution to apply for grant funds through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Library Road Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Mr. Dixon absent.

Mrs. Gibbons spoke of the improvements that are going on in our municipal parks. She asked Municipal Engineer Jean Statler to give an overview of what is being accomplished.

Ms. Statler said that a few park projects are being completed involving a grant from the State and the County. New playground equipment and a pavilion are being installed at Village Green Park and should be completed in the next two weeks as well as some restoration work taking place afterwards. Two pickle ball courts have been installed at Simmons Park, and a new sports court/basketball court is nearing completion at Millennium Park. The projects are slated to be completed by December 15, 2016 at which time the County will come out to do inspections and give their approval for use.

21. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:05 P.M.



Manager